

# How to Frame Your Quotes



The Quote Snowman Concept

# Framing Your Quotes

- Quotations do not speak for themselves.
- You need to **build a frame** around them in which you do that speaking for them.

# Dangling Quotations (or also called Quote Dumps) = 😞

- Definition of dangling quote or quote dump: Quotations inserted into a text without a frame are sometimes called **dangling** for the way they are left dangling without any explanation. We also call them **Quote Dumps** because the quotes are dumped into the essay without any smooth integration.
- They make your reader think, “*Huh?*”

# Example of A Dangling Quote

*Susan Bordo writes about women and dieting. “Fiji is just one example. Until television was introduced in 1995, the islands had no reported cases of eating disorders. In 1998, three years after programs from the United States and Britain began broadcasting there, 62 percent of the girls surveyed reported dieting.” Another point Bordo makes is that...*

- Note that the writer does not:
- **Introduce** the quote adequately.
  - *Who is Susan Bordo?*  
*Are these even her words?*
- **Explain** why she finds the passage worth quoting.
  - *How do Bordo's words connect to the writer's ideas?*

*Susan Bordo writes about women and dieting. "Fiji is just one example. Until television was introduced in 1995, the islands had no reported cases of eating disorders. In 1998, three years after programs from the United States and Britain began broadcasting there, 62 percent of the girls surveyed reported dieting."*

*I think Bordo is right. Another point Bordo makes is that...*

# Quotation Snowman

- To adequately frame a quotation, you need to insert it into a “quotation snowman.”



→ The top part of the snowman = the introduction to the quote

→ The middle part of the snowman = the quote

→ The bottom part of the snowman = the response to the quote/explanation/reiteration of information

# Quotation Snowman

- The **statement of introduction** should explain who is speaking and set up what the quotation says.
- The **explanation** should state why you consider the quotation to be important and what you take it to say.

# Moves for Introducing Quotations (top part of snowman)

- X asserts, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- As the prominent Philosopher X puts it,  
“\_\_\_\_\_.”
- According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- X himself contends, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- In her book \_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that  
“\_\_\_\_\_.”
- Writing in *Time Magazine*, X complains that  
“\_\_\_\_\_.”



# Employ Active Verbs

- When adding such introductory phrases, be sure to use language that accurately **reflects the spirit** of the quoted passage.
- Generally not *says* or *writes* (dull)
- Rather, *argues, asserts, believes, claims, emphasizes, agrees, endorses, praises, supports, complains, contends, denies, refutes, calls for, pleads, urges* (vivid!)

# Moves for Explaining Quotations (bottom part of snowman)

- Basically, X is affirming \_\_\_\_\_.
- In other words, X believes \_\_\_\_\_.
- In making this comment, X argues that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is insisting that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X's point is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The essence of X's argument is that \_\_\_\_\_.

# Revised Example

*The philosopher Susan Bordo deplores the hold that the Western obsession with dieting has on women. Her basic argument is that increasing numbers of women across the globe are being led to see themselves as fat. Citing the island of Fiji as a case in point, Bordo notes that “until television was introduced in 1995, the islands had no reported cases of eating disorders. In 1998, three years after programs from the United States and Britain begun broadcasting there, 62 percent of the girls surveyed reported dieting” (149-50). Bordo’s point is that the West’s obsession with dieting is spreading even to remote places across the globe. Ultimately, Bordo complains, the culture of dieting will find you, regardless of where you live. Bordo’s observations ring true to me because...*

The philosopher Susan Bordo deplores the hold that the Western obsession with dieting has on women. Her basic argument is that increasing numbers of women across the globe are being led to see themselves as fat. Citing the island of Fiji as a case in point, Bordo notes that “until television was introduced in 1995, the islands had no reported cases of eating disorders. In 1998, three years after programs from the United States and Britain began broadcasting there, 62 percent of the girls surveyed reported dieting” (149-50). Bordo’s point is that the West’s obsession with dieting is spreading even to remote places across the globe. Ultimately, Bordo complains, the culture of dieting will find you, regardless of where you live. Bordo’s observations ring true for me because ...

Red: Introduction

White: Quote

Blue : Explanation

# Remember...

- Select quotes that are **relevant** to your argument.
- **Be flexible**—your selection of quotes may change as you write.
- **Don't assume that quotes speak for themselves.**
- **Make “Quotation Snowmen”**—that is, frame quotes with **introductory phrases** and **explanations**

# Practice Moves

## Introductions (before quotes)

- X argues, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- As the prominent Philosopher X puts it, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- X himself asserts, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- In her book \_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- Writing in *Time Magazine*, X complains that “\_\_\_\_\_.”

## Explanations (after quotes)

- Basically, X is contending \_\_\_\_\_.
- In other words, X believes \_\_\_\_\_.
- In making this comment, X argues that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is insisting that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X’s point is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The essence of X’s argument is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Portions of this presentation are excerpted from *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., pp. 39-47, by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein.

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